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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/784,708	02/23/2004	Robert Rice	BWORLD0101	1463

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EXAMINER

JOHNSON, CARLTON

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2136

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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05/11/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/784,708

Applicant(s)

RICE ET AL.

Examiner

Carlton V. Johnson

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 February 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 February 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responding to application papers filed on **2-23-2004**.
2. Claims **1 - 24** are pending. Claims **1, 11, 18** are independent.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claim **1 - 24** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by **Nassiri et al.** (US Patent No. **20020143711**).

Regarding Claims 1, 11, 18, Nassiri discloses a method, system, computer program product in a computer readable medium for verifying a document via a distributed computer network, the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) creating an electronic version of the document on a first client in the computer network; (see Nassiri paragraph [0072], lines 5-9: download (i.e. create) electronic document; paragraph [0045], lines 10-16: software, implementation means)

- (b) storing the electronic document on a server in the computer network; (see Nassiri paragraph [0081], lines 2-27; paragraph [0080], lines 1-5: upload, download, store electronic document on host system (i.e. server))
- (c) retrieving the electronic document on a second client in the computer network; (see Nassiri paragraph [0080], lines 1-5: download (i.e. retrieve) electronic document)
- (d) electronically affixing at least one signing party's signature to the electronic document via the second client; (see Nassiri paragraph [0095], lines 1-6: attach digital signature to electronic document)
- (e) electronically affixing a verifying party's signature to the electronic document via the second client, wherein the authorized user may be any certified party that has authority by law to verify and authenticate the signer of a document; (see Nassiri paragraph [0095], lines 1-6: attach notary digital signature, notary seal for notary public to electronic document) and
- (f) storing the signed, notarized, electronic document on said server. (see Nassiri paragraph [0102], lines 5-9: upload signed, notarized electronic document to host system (i.e. server))

Regarding Claim 2, Nassiri discloses the method according to claim 1, wherein the verifying party in step (e) is a notary. (see Nassiri paragraph [0044], lines 1-4; paragraph [0041], lines 8-11: notary public is verifier)

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Regarding Claims 3, 12, 19, Nassiri discloses the method, system, computer program product according to claims 2, 11, 18, wherein step (e) further comprises electronically affixing the notary's seal to the electronic document. (see Nassiri paragraph [0095], lines 1-6: attach notary seal to electronic document; paragraph [0045], lines 10-16: software, implementation means)

Regarding Claims 4, 13, 20, Nassiri discloses the method, system, computer program product according to claims 3, 12, 19, wherein the notary's seal is stored electronically on the second client. (see Nassiri paragraph [0046], lines 9-12: attached notary seal device for notary public; paragraph [0045], lines 10-16: software, implementation means)

Regarding Claims 5, 14, 21, Nassiri discloses the method, system, computer program product according to claims 1, 11, 18, wherein the verifying party's signature is stored on the second client. (see Nassiri paragraph [0046], lines 7-9: attached signature device for notary public; paragraph [0045], lines 10-16: software, implementation means)

Regarding Claims 6, 17, 22, Nassiri discloses the method, system, computer program product according to claims 1, 11, 18, wherein the signing party is provided with the location of an authorized verifying party nearest to the signing party's geographic location. (see Nassiri paragraph [0082], lines 5-11: nearest location for notary public (i.e. verifying party); paragraph [0045], lines 10-16: software, implementation means)

Regarding Claims 7, 15, 23, Nassiri discloses the method, system, computer program product according to claims 1, 11, 18, further comprising: creating and updating an electronic journal file containing information regarding the verification transaction, wherein said file is stored in a journal database for the verifying party. (see Nassiri paragraph [0047], lines 1-5; paragraph [0047], lines 8-14; paragraph [0101], lines 3-7: journal file for notarization; paragraph [0045], lines 10-16: software, implementation means)

Regarding Claims 8, 16, 24, Nassiri discloses the method, system, computer program product according to claims 7, 15, 23, wherein the information stored in the journal file may include: sending party; time; dates; type of document; fees; type of notarization; signer's signature; and verification information. (see Nassiri paragraph [0101], lines 3-7; paragraph [0043], lines 6-15: journal contains notary information required by law; paragraph [0045], lines 10-16: software, implementation means)

Regarding Claim 9, Nassiri discloses the method according to claim 1, wherein an authorized verifying party can both create the electronic document and verify the electronic document. (see Nassiri paragraph [0044], lines 1-4; paragraph [0044], lines 7-11: notary; paragraph [0080], lines 1-5: download (i.e. create) electronic document; paragraph [0095], lines 1-6: verify electronic document)

Regarding Claim 10, Nassiri discloses the method according to claim 1, wherein a certified creator can only create the electronic document. (see Nassiri paragraph [0080], lines 15-19: confidential documents for specific individual)

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Carlton V. Johnson whose telephone number is 571-270-1032. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday , 8:00 - 5:00PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nasser Moazzami can be reached on 571-272-4195. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a

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USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

C.V.

CVJ

May 4, 2007

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5,9107

Carlton V. Johnson
Examiner
Art Unit 2136